DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

13 February 1975

MEMO FOR COL WHEELER, SAF/SS

I discussed the attached with Tom Latimer. He feels that this is premature and might be considered when the details of the Select Committee are known.

J. W. P.

J. W. Plummer

~~TOP SECRET~~

[redacted]
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D C

THE NRO STAFF

30 January 1975

Mr. Plummer has seen.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: Congressional Interest in Intelligence Activities

With the Senate Select Committee investigating the intelligence community and all indications that the House will do likewise, the possibility of leaks drawing attention to reconnaissance satellites and NRO activities is very great. This could result in questions being posed to other DOD witnesses which, if answered incorrectly, could seriously damage our security. With you established as the focal point for this type of information, we have the chance of establishing a measure of consistency in security policy which could help preclude future security problems.

The memo to the Secretary of Defense requests his support in this matter. Recommend that you sign this memo.

[redacted]
KEITH S. PEYTON
Captain, USAF
Copy
CWC

[redacted]
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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Congressional Interest in Intelligence Activities

Congressional interest in intelligence community operations has been increased this year by the Senate Resolution 21 activities. This interest combined with previous inadvertent disclosures and leaks about NRO reconnaissance satellite operations could easily result in Congressional questions on these subjects to DOD witnesses during the authorization and appropriations hearings. Unless strong precautionary measures are taken, the responses to such questions will lead to an uncontrollable erosion of [redacted] security.

In order to assure that Congressional questions pertaining to NRO systems and operations are accurately answered, I would appreciate your signature on the attached memorandum designating my office as the focal point for information on questions of this type.

J. W. Plummer

1 Attachment
Proposed SecDef Memo

~~TALENT-KEYHOLE~~

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARIES OF THE MILITARY DEPARTMENTS
CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF
DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH & ENGINEERING
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (INTELLIGENCE)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS)
ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE (PUBLIC AFFAIRS)
DIRECTOR, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND COMMAND AND CONTROL SYSTEMS
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS AGENCY
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE MAPPING AGENCY
DIRECTOR, DEFENSE NUCLEAR AGENCY
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

SUBJECT: Congressional Interest in Intelligence Activities

I fully expect Congress to be particularly sensitive about activities being conducted by the intelligence community or supporting intelligence community operations. I am particularly concerned about the security of the National Reconnaissance Program's reconnaissance satellite operations since there already has been media exposure of these efforts.

Should you be questioned about National Reconnaissance Office operations during the Congressional authorization and appropriations hearings, I would prefer that you accept the question but refer it within the DOD to the Director of the NRO for response.

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